

1. (Amended) A method for sorting objects having machine-readable indicia thereon, comprising the steps of:

- capturing object information from the machine-readable indicia on an object;
- determining routing information from the object information;
- determining, based on the routing information, a correct sort destination for the object;
- generating a visual and/or audio command identifying the correct sort destination for the object; and
- creating a record for at least one object including the routing information, a weight, a sort rate, a sort accuracy, an idle time, a sort start and stop time, and a number of the objects processed.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- uploading the record to a database; and
- transmitting data from the database to one or more of an object tracking database, a billing database, and a scan central server.

16. (Amended) An object sorting system comprising:

- a rack system comprising a plurality of sort destination modules, each sort destination module further comprising a sort destination for holding at least one object; and
- a management system comprising:
  - a control system;

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

an information capture device for reading machine-readable indicia from each object and for outputting the information to the control system;

an audio system and/or visual indicators for providing instructions to an operator; and

a recording device for creating a record for at least one object including the routing information, a weight, a sort rate, a sort accuracy, an idle time, a sort start and stop time, and a number of the objects processed.

17. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 16 wherein the sort destination modules further comprise at least one indicator identifying that the at least one object should be placed in the sort destination and wherein the control system outputs a signal to the at least one indicator for each of the plurality of sort destination modules.

18. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 16 wherein the sort destination modules further comprise at least one placement sensor for monitoring when the at least one object is placed in the sort destination and wherein the control system inputs information from the at least one placement sensor for each of the plurality of sort destination modules and determining which sort destination the at least one object was placed in and when the at least one object was placed in the sort destination.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

19. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 16 wherein the sort destination modules further comprise a scale for weighing the sort destination and wherein the control system inputs and records the weight of the sort destination containing the at least one object.

20. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 16 wherein the sort destination modules further comprise:

at least one indicator identifying that the at least one object should be placed in the sort destination;

at least one placement sensor for monitoring when the at least one object is placed in the sort destination; and

a scale for weighing the sort destination;

wherein the control system:

outputs a signal to the at least one indicator for each of the plurality of sort destination modules;

inputs information from the at least one placement sensor for each of the plurality of sort destination modules;

determines which sort destination the at least one object was placed in and when the at least one object was placed in the sort destination; and

inputs and records the weight of the sort destination containing the at least one object.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

22. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 21, wherein the user interface is used to input an operator's identity and to output the operator's identity to the control system.

23. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 20, wherein each of the plurality of sort destination modules further comprises:

a crate placement sensor for monitoring whether the crate is within the sort destination, and

a second indicator for indicating, when the crate should be changed based upon a predetermined parameter associated with the crate.

25. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 24, wherein the controller area network adaptor card communicates with at least one of the plurality of interface boards and the controller area network bus, auto-terminating the bus, providing a unique node address for each of the plurality of interface boards, and distributing power to the interface boards.

26. (Amended) The object sorting system of claim 25, wherein the controller area network adaptor card communicates with the interface boards, each interface board communicating with the first indicator, the second indicator, and the scale, and additionally capable through additional I/O ports to interface with the sort destination placement sensor and the object placement sensor.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com